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## nomemakers' chat

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1943

SUBJECT: "FOOD FOR THE HOME FRONT IN '43" Information from home economists of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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Here is the first day of a brand new year.....the day to review the past and make resolutions for the future.....the day for predictions and plans for the year ahead.

The most important predictions and plans for 1943 are about food. The statement of the Secretary of Agriculture, so often quoted; "Food will win the war and write the peace," is a thought for every American housewife to keep in mind as she buys, plans and cooks food for her family this year. Under the stress of war the Nation needs well-fed people on the home front as well as the battle front.

In reviewing the past, home economists of the Department of Agriculture point out that Americans ate better—that is, had diets that were better nutritionally—in 1941 and '42 than they had had during the previous 5 years. Diets improved in '41 and '42 for several reasons. Many families had more money, so could buy more and better food. The national nutrition campaign roused public interest in better diets. Enriched white flour and bread came on the market. And the Companion assembled for more food for the needy through food stamps, school ranches, penny milk, and direct distribution of food.

But that was <u>last</u> year. This year civilians won't be able to get as much of some important foods like meat, butter, milk, and many vegetables and fruits as they would be able and willing to buy. What food civilians have this year will depend on many things—on the weather, on necessay farm

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supplies such as labor, machinery and fertilizer, and on processing and transportation.

Looking ahead from this first day of the year, home economist see the food picture for '43 this way:

Civilians can count on their daily bread and breakfast porridge, too. Even if the 1943 crop of cereals should be short, people in the United States will have plenty-plenty after all cereals has been sent for lend-lease and other exporting

Fats and Oils. The family dinuer table in '43 may not offer as many fried foods, rich gravies, sauces, and oily dressings as in the past year. For the supply of fats and eils for civilians won't be as large. But it will be larger than in the years before the war.

Sugar. Sugar supplies for '43 may be smaller because of the transportation situation. So you'll continue to cultivate a small sweettooth. Americans will probably eat more grain foods, potatoes and beans for the food energy they have been getting from sugar. Home economists say this may improve diets. White sugar offers only calories, write whole grains, potatoes and beans offer valuable minerals and vitamins as well as calories.

Potatoes and dried beans. More sweetpotatoes and more dried beans are the predictions for next year. Large crops this year supplied a big carry-over. But the carry-over of white potatoes is not so large. So if the '43 potato crop should be onleaverage size, the supply of white potatoes won't be as large as last year.

Fruits and vegetables. The fruits and vegetables American families can have in '43 will depend on how large the crops are, how much labor there is for harvesting, and how much room there is for shipping. With many fruits a big crop one year is almost sure to mean a small crop the next year. So the large crops of many fruits last year will probably mean some shorter crops this year. Restrictions on commercial canning will mean fewer canned fruits

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and vegetables on the grocery shelves. So family gardens and preserving food at home will be more important than ever. And commercial truck growers will be urged to plant the crops that offer the most in food value.

Poultry, eggs, meat and fish. The hens of the country did a lot for American meals last year. They'll be even busier this year, but the demand for poultry and eggs will be greater, especially for dried eggs for shipping abroad. The Government will probably ration meat this year, so whatever the civilian supply of meat is, everyone will get a fair share. Fish supplies will probably be smaller than in recent years before the war.

Milk. The total milk supply may average about the same next year as this. But the large shipments of milk and milk products for our armed forces and allies will probably mean less milk for civilians.

Well, there are new year's predictions for food on the home front. In the light of those predictions, here are some resolutions for the American homemaker:

Resolved: To learn enough about food values to keep family meals up to the best possible standard in spite of wartime shortages.

Resolved: To waste no food-to make use of all good bits and scraps.

Resolved: To overcome prejudices, whims and superstitions about foods in order to take advantage of all foods on the market.

Resolved: To grow and raise as much of my family's food as possible if

I have enough "growing ground" and gardening skill.

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